

Serial No.: 09/456,670

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-6 and 8-10 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 5 and 6 have been amended herein, and claims 2-4 and 7 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 8-10 have been newly added. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The title of the invention has been amended so as to be more descriptive.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 3, 5 and 6 subject to being amended to independent form.

II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 3. Claims 5 and 6 have been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claims 1, 5 and 6 should now be in condition for allowance.

New claims 8-10 depend from allowable claims 6, 5 and 6, respectively, and thus should also be in condition for allowance. Claims 8-10 further define various features of the invention. Support for claims 8-10 may be found, for example, at page 30, lines 3-17; page 31, line 13; and page 31, line 14 to page 32, line 2, respectively.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS

Claims 2-4 and 7 have been canceled, thus rendering moot the rejections thereof.

IV. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, all claims are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

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Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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